

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 SCCT-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /084 W

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P R 071741 OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3182

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: EUROPEAN REACTION TO THE SPANISH EXECUTIONS

1. THE DCM SAW THE MINISTERS OR MINISTER-COUNSELORS OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSIES ON OCTOBER 6 FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. THE MEETING RESULTED FROM THIS "NON-GROUP'S ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF MONTHLY GET-TOGETHERS, WITH ADDITIONAL AD HOC MEETINGS WHEN THERE ARE EVENTS OF PARTICULAR MUTUAL INTEREST. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES AS OF BACKGROUND INTEREST TO THE ADDRESSEES THE MAIN POINTS THAT CAME OUT OF THIS MEETING.

2. THE DECISIONS TO RECALL AMBASSADORS AFTER THE EXECUTIONS WERE TAKEN IN A RATHER DISORDERLY FASHION IN RESPONSE TO INTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURES. ONCE ONE OR TWO EC COUNTRIES HAD TAKEN THE LEAD, OTHERS TENDED TO JUMP ON THE BAND WAGON. THE BELGIANS AND THE ITALIANS WERE THE LAST TO ACT.

3. THOSE PRESENT LAST NIGHT GENERALLY FELT THAT THERE HAD BEEN  
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CONSIDERABLE OVER-REACTION IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND WERE CONCERNED THAT THIS OVER-REACTION HAD WORKED TO STRENGTHEN THE RIGHT WITHIN SPAIN, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. THEY WERE NOT SO SURE THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE RIGHT OVER THE LONGER TERM.

4. THEY WERE HOPEFUL THAT THEIR AMBASSADORS WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN SOON. THEY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE DECISION WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY A GROUP DECISION OR WHETHER IT WOULD BE TAKEN BY EACH COUNTRY SEPARATELY. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT BELGIUM HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT ITS AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN BECAUSE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY RELATIONSHIP. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED HIS EMBASSY DURING THE AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO RETURN SOON.

5. THEIR CENTRAL CONCERN WAS OVER THE TIMING, NATURE, AND RESULTS OF FURTHER TRIALS. IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR AMBASSADORS TO RETURN IF FURTHER SUMMARY TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS WERE EXPECTED VERY SOON, AND THEN THERE WOULD BE THE QUESTION OF WHAT THEIR AMBASSADORS WOULD DO IN ANY EVENT WHEN AND IF THERE WERE ADDITIONAL EXECUTIONS. THEY WONDERED WHETHER SPANISH CONCERN OVER HOW THE FINAL WORKING OUT OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF DELAYING AND MODERATING SPANISH ACTION WITH REGARD TO TERRORISTS WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED BUT NOT YET TRIED.

6. SOME OF THEM THOUGHT THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN ONE OF THE LEADING TERRORISTS, WILSON, BECAUSE HE HAD TALKED SO MUCH. ONE REPORT WAS THAT HE WAS A DRUG ADDICT WHO HAD BROKEN BECAUSE HE WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS ACCUSTOMED DRUGS WHILE IN JAIL AND HAD TALKED AT LENGTH, PROVIDING GREAT DETAIL ON ALL HIS COLLABORATORS AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD HARBORED HIM AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, INCLUDING SOME WHO HAD DONE SO WITHOUT HAVING ANY IDEA OF WHO HE WAS.

7. THEY REPORTED THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE LABOR GROUPS IN THEIR COUNTRIES TO LIMIT COMMUNICATIONS AND FLIGHTS TO SPAIN HAD BEEN SPOTTY IN THEIR SUCCESS AND WERE NOW DYING DOWN. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN THE ITALIAN.

8. SOME OF THEM REPORTED SNUBS ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH OFFICIALS  
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AND WONDERED HOW THEIR AMBASSADORS WOULD BE RECEIVED WHEN THEY RETURNED.

9. THEY ASSUMED THAT WITH THE FREEZING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW SPANISH-COMMON MARKET AGREEMENT THE SPANISH-COMMON MARKET RELATIONSHIP WOULD CONTINUE AS IT HAD BEFORE UNDER THE AGREEMENT STILL IN FORCE. THEY HAD HAD AT LEAST ONE EXPRESSION

OF CONCERN FROM THE SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE EXISTING  
AGREEMENT MIGHT BE DENOUNCED BUT THEY DID NOT EXPECT THIS  
TO BE THE CASE.  
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NNN

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